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Report : Petition of F. Crump and W. Williamson

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S. Rep. No. 90, 43d Cong., 1st Sess. (1874)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1874.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PRATT submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the joint petition of Fleming Crump and William Williamson, praying, for themselves and their widows after them, a pension of \$15 a month, submit the following report:

The petition has neither form nor substance. It is addressed to one of the Senators of Missouri, is not sworn to, and sets forth no ground for relief by Congress. They say, to be sure, that in the year 1824, they were enlisted in the Army of the United States, and, with a detachment of recruits under the command of Captain Shaler, went on board a keel-boat, and with a cordelle and setting poles, they worked the boat up the Missouri River, wading through sloughs up to their waists in water. This they continued to do until they met the floating ice, sleeping on the cold ground in their wet clothes, with a soldier's bed, a blanket and knapsack. Thus they reached the mouth of the Kansas River, and there spent the winter of 1824. In the spring of 1825, they resumed their trip up the Missouri River undergoing similar hardships, from which they say they contracted diseases from which they never recovered. When they reached Council Bluffs, keel-boats were fitted up for ten military companies, commanded by General Atkinson, to form an escort to the Indian agent, who was about holding councils and forming treaties with the different tribes of Indians occupying the country lying between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. This expedition, they say, is the one known as the Yellowstone expedition of 1825. They allege that they are now seventy years old, and the only two survivors of their grade in that expedition, and that they are now so debilitated and crippled-up with rheumatism, brought on by the exposure and the extreme temperatures of heat and cold in that expedition, that they are rendered unable to obtain by their labor the necessaries of life.

There is no averment that they have applied to the Pension-Office for relief; their statement is not sworn to, nor is there a particle of evidence accompanying their petition. Under these circumstances, there seems but one course for the committee to pursue, however their sympathies may be touched by the recital of hardships encountered and endured by these two old men.

The committee respectfully ask to be discharged from the further consideration of this naked petition.